

*With W. Vignolo's Compliments*

# MEDICAL OFFICER'S Annual Report

FOR

1894.

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Read February 26th, 1895,

TO THE

TEIGNMOUTH  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## To the Teignmouth Urban Sanitary Authority.

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### Meteorological.

**A**S in former years I am indebted to Dr. W. C. Lake for the figures given below. I have added a few remarks on the most striking facts brought out by an examination of his register and of the tables which follow.

The chief characteristics of the weather have been equability of temperature and excessive rainfall, contrasting very strongly with the great heat and drought of 1893, and giving us a warm dry Spring, a cool Summer and an excessively wet and warm Autumn. In January, the coldest month, the mean temperature was slightly below the normal; in the next three months it considerably exceeded the average, causing the Spring to be unusually mild. May was a cool month, but, as in the three summer months which followed and which had a mean



temperature practically corresponding with the average, the range of temperature was comparatively slight; September fell a little below the normal of mean temperature, but in the last quarter it was unusually high, in November and December phenomenally so. The absence of extremes has been most noticeable; in every month, save January, the lowest minimum has been higher, and in all but December the highest maximum has been lower than usual. A temperature of 70 degrees in the shade was reached on only 20 days, (as compared with 74 days in 1893) viz.:—6 in June, 7 in July, 6 in August, and 1 in September; the maximum for the year, 75 degrees, being recorded on 30th June. The freezing point was reached on 9 days in January, 4 in February, 1 in March, and only once afterwards, on December 31st; an extraordinarily small number of frosts. The minimum, 16·1, occurred on January 7th.

With respect to rainfall—it was excessive in January, July, September, October, and November; deficient in February, March, and December, and approached closely to the average in the remaining months. March was the driest month, November the dampest, these positions being usually taken by May and October respectively. The late Autumn rainfall was large and long continued: lasting from October 19th to November 17th in which time it amounted to 12·88 inches; and on three days in this period the fall considerably exceeded 1 inch in the 24 hours: the maximum was 1·81 inch on November 11th and, being followed by 0·92 inch on the next day, was the cause of some flooding of portions of the district, which will be further alluded to.

Snow fell on only 4 days: 3 in January and 1 in December.

Appended are the usual meteorological tables.





## Vital Statistics.

Since local conditions with which I am acquainted, render it improbable that the previous intercensal decrease of population, amounting to 181 persons, is continuing, I have, as in the previous two years, based my calculations upon the figures of the 1891 census. The population of Teignmouth, thus estimated, at the middle of 1894, was 6886. The "Natural Increment" for the year was 42.

The total number of Births in Teignmouth registered during the year was 146, comprising 90 of male and 56 of female children; this gives a Birth Rate of 21·20, a lower number than that for 1893 which was 23·38, and also considerably below 23·73 the decennial mean.

The total number of registered Deaths in Teignmouth was 104 (Males 50, Females 54) giving a Total Annual Death Rate of 15·10 as compared with 19·02 in 1893, and 18·46 the average for the previous ten years. But of these deaths 9 were of Visitors as distinguished from settled inhabitants, and I as usual deduct these from the above total mortality for the purpose of determining the Actual Death Rate which thus found is 13·79, as compared with 17·14 in 1893 and 20·85 in 1892. Two deaths were uncertified.

The Shaldon population also is regarded as stationary since the 1891 census, when it was returned as 1285. In 1894 the Natural Increment was 9. The registered Births numbered 27 (Males 9, Females 18) giving a Birth Rate of 21·01 as compared with 24·90 in 1893 and 24·51 the decennial average. The registered Deaths numbered 18 (Males 10, Females 8) equivalent to a Death Rate of 14·02 as compared with 16·34 in 1893 and 17·24 the decennial average.

The above facts are embodied in the following table.

LOCALITY.	Area in Acres	Estimated Popu- lation 1894.	Birth Rate 1893	Birth Rate 1894	Birth Rate 10 years average.	Death Rate 1893	Death Rate 1894	Death Rate 10 years average.
Teignmouth ...	1073	6886	23·38	21·20	23·73	19·02	15·10	18·46
Shaldon .....	562	1285	24·90	21·01	24·51	16·34	14·02	17·24

The Deaths of Children under one year of age, which include premature births, numbered 13 in Teignmouth and 3 in Shaldon, giving as the rates of Infant Mortality per 1000 registered births 89 and 111 respectively; the corresponding rates for 1893 were 168 and 94, and the average for the previous ten years were 140 and 90.

The statistical tables supplied by the Local Government Board are here submitted. Table A deals with the mortality of the several divisions which make up the district, shewing the number of deaths from certain diseases classified according to their occurrence above or below the age of five years. Table B includes all those cases of sickness which come within the provisions of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act 1889: the age classification in this table must be regarded as approximate only,

inasmuch as it is the exception for age to be stated on the Notification forms.

(A). Table of Deaths during the Year 1894, in the Teignmouth Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.  (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.)  (a)	Mortality from all causes at subjoined Ages.								(i)	Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.											Total.
	(b) At all ages.	(c) Under 1 year	(d) 1 & under 5	(e) 5 & under 15	(f) 15 & under 25	(g) 25 & under 65	(h) 65 & upwards	Diphtheria.		Fevers:—Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerperal.	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever	Ague	Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases	
Teignmouth	96	13	5	3	4	29	42	Under 5 5 upwds.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	12	18
Shaldon	18	3	2	—	—	5	8	Under 5 5 upwds.	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	5
Teignmouth Infirmary	8	—	—	2	1	3	2	Under 5 5 upwds.	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	8	13
TOTALS	122	16	7	5	5	37	52	Under 5 5 upwds.	1	5	1	1	—	1	—	9	5	4	15	86	23
									1	5	1						10	4	8	99	99

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring within the District among persons not belonging thereto.	9	1	4	4	5	Upwds.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	7	9
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The various diseases which proved fatal during the year are set forth more fully in the following tables, the deaths being classified according to the ages at, and the months during which they occurred.

*Mortality from all Causes arranged under the Ages at which Death occurred.*

TEIGNMOUTH 1894.

DISEASE.	under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 60	60 & up.	Total.
	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	1	1	1	2	—	5
Puerperal Fever ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Rheumatism ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cancer ... ..	—	—	—	5	4	—	9
Phthisis ... ..	—	—	—	—	7	—	7
Tuberculosis (other forms of) ... ..	2	1	1	—	—	—	4
Debility from Birth .. ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Old Age ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	12	12
Apoplexy and Paralysis ... ..	—	—	—	—	5	8	13
Other Diseases of the Nervous System .	3	—	—	—	1	1	5
Heart Disease ... ..	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Laryngitis ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis ... ..	2	1	—	—	1	6	10
Pneumonia and Pleurisy ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Diseases of Stomach and Intestines ..	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
Disease of Liver ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Diseases of Kidneys ... ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Accident ... ..	—	1	1	2	1	3	8
Epidemic Influenza .. ..	—	—	—	1	2	1	4
All Other Diseases .. ..	—	—	—	—	1	5	6
Totals	13	5	5	5	31	45	104

*Mortality from all Causes, arranged under the months  
during which the Deaths were registered.*

TEIGNMOUTH 1894.

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total.
Diphtheria .. ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	5
Puerperal Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Rheumatism .. ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cancer ... ..	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	2	9
Phthisis ... ..	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	7
Tuberculosis (other forms of)	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	4
Debility from Birth ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	5
Old Age ... ..	3	2	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	1	1	—	12
Apoplexy and Paralysis ...	1	2	1	1	2	1	—	1	—	1	2	1	13
Other Diseases of the Nervous System ... ..	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5
Heart Disease .. ...	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	4
Laryngitis ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis ... ..	3	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	10
Pneumonia and Pleurisy ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Diseases of Stomach and Intestines ... ..	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Disease of Liver ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Disease of Kidneys ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Accident ... ..	—	—	1	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	1	1	8
Epidemic Influenza ... ..	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
All Other Diseases .. ...	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	6
Totals	16	11	14	7	7	7	6	7	5	7	6	11	104

In the foregoing tables there are one or two points worthy of note:—

(a.) Infant mortality is low; lower indeed than ever before; and is less than half that of the previous year. This is matter for congratulation inasmuch as the Infantile Mortality Rate is always regarded as a somewhat reliable index of the Sanitary condition of a locality. The Birth Rate however, which directly influences the Infant Mortality, is also low; this point must be taken into consideration.

(b.) Forty-five deaths, equivalent to 43 per cent of the total mortality, occurred at advanced ages.

(c.) The mortality of the first quarter was a little higher than usual, while in each of the three succeeding quarters it was lower than in any corresponding periods during the last 20 years. The total mortality was the lowest on record, and the Actual Death Rate 13.79 is very much less than in any previous year, having

been most closely approximated to by the 16·28 rate of 1888. While making every allowance for the fact that, in dealing with such a small population as ours, very considerable yearly fluctuations must be expected, and that consequently it is impossible to draw very reliable inferences as to the dependence of such fluctuations on Sanitary conditions, still it is impossible, when recording such an unusually low death rate, to resist the conclusion that it may be in part an effect of the energy and activity with which domestic hygiene has been during recent years improved in Teignmouth. It must be borne in mind however that a death rate even lower than 13 may reasonably be expected from a locality possessing such great natural advantages.

(d.) Only six deaths were registered from the principal Zymotic diseases giving a zymotic death rate of 0·87 per 1000, a number which compares very favourably with the 1893 rate of 2·03 and is also much below the decennial average 1·31; but the reflection that of the 6 deaths referred to, 5 resulted from Enteric Fever, which is essentially *the* type of a Preventable Disease, diminishes the satisfaction with which the announcement of so low a rate would otherwise be received. The incidence of the various infectious diseases will be considered below. The usual table dealing with Zymotic mortality is here given.

*Shewing the Number of Deaths from the Principal Zymotic Diseases in the year 1894, and in the Ten Years, 1884 to 1893.*

TEIGNMOUTH.

DISEASE.	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	Annual Average of 10 years, 1884-1893.	* Average Death Rate per 1,000 for 10 years, 1884-1893.	Deaths in 1894.	Death Rate per 1000 in 1894.
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	17	—	1	—	—	1·8	·26	—	—
Scarlatina ...	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	·5	·07	—	—
Diphtheria ...	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	4	·8	·11	1	·14
Whooping Cough ...	2	1	1	8	1	1	3	—	—	5	2·2	·32	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	1	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	3	3	2·0	·29	5	·73
Diarrhœa ...	3	1	4	2	—	—	4	—	2	2	1·8	·26	—	—
Totals ...	7	8	8	14	3	20	10	2	5	14	9·1	1·31	6	·87

\*This average is calculated on the number 6931 which represents the estimated population at the middle of the decennial period, *i.e.*, at the end of 1888

(e.) Epidemic Influenza was responsible for 4 deaths as compared with 2 in the previous year and 10 in 1892.



*Mortality from all Causes arranged under the Ages at which Death occurred.*

SHALDON 1894.

DISEASES					under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 60	60 & upwards	Total.
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Phthisis	..	..	...	...	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Debility from Birth	...	..	...	...	2	1	—	—	—	—	3
Old Age	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Diseases of the Nervous System	...	..	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Bronchitis	...	..	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	2	3
Accident	...	...	..	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
All other Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Total					3	2	0	0	4	9	18

*Mortality from all Causes arranged under the Months during which the Deaths were registered.*

SHALDON 1894.

DISEASES.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total.
Whooping Cough	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Phthisis	..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Debility from Birth	...	..	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Old Age	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Diseases of the Nervous System	..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Bronchitis	..	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3
Accident	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
All other Diseases	..	...	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
Total	0	2	4	2	0	0	1	0	3	2	2	2	18

The only point in the Shaldon tables calling for remark is the occurrence of 50 per cent of the total mortality at advanced ages.

Having thus separately dealt with the two localities which make up the district, I now append the figures for the whole Urban Sanitary District.

The estimated population is 8171.

Number of Births, 173 ; Birth Rate, 21·17.

Number of Deaths, 122 ; Total Death Rate, 14·93 ; or, excluding 9 deaths of visitors, 13·83.

Zymotic Death Rate, 0·85.

Infantile Death Rate, 92·48 per 1000 births.

### Infectious Disease.

As shewn in Table B, page 6, the number of new cases of infectious illness of which I have received information has been 46 ; viz. :—13 of Scarlatina, 4 of Diphtheria, 21 of Enteric Fever, 1 of Puerperal Fever, and 7 of Erysipelas. Three cases being notified in duplicate by different practitioners brought the number of notifications received up to 49. For comparison and reference I have here tabulated the yearly notifications since the adoption of the Act on January 1st, 1890.

*Shewing, for the whole District, the number of Notifications received in each year since the Act was adopted.*

	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	
Scarlatina ...	20	15	9	22	13	
Diphtheria .	4	—	2	13	4	
Enteric Fever ...	11	7	19	10	21	
Puerperal Fever..	—	1	—	1	1	
Erysipelas ..	2	14	9	11	7	
	37	37	39	57	46	

SCARLATINA.—Of the 13 cases notified, 9 occurred in Teignmouth ; in 4 of these the infection could almost certainly be traced to an external source (visitors) ; and 3 of the remainder dwelt under one roof. Efficient isolation was available in every case save one which was removed to Hospital immediately on receipt of the Notification. The type of the disease has been uniformly mild, and the tendency to diffusion slight ; in no single instance has there been any suspicion of infection spreading from a pre-existing case.

The 4 cases in Shaldon were the final manifestations of the mild and limited epidemic which prevailed during the fourth quarter of 1893. The last of these cases was notified on April 30th, since which date the disease has disappeared from the locality.



**DIPHTHERIA.**—Three cases in Teignmouth and one in Shaldon have to be recorded. They were apparently sporadic, being separated by wide intervals of time. Two of them occurred in houses which I recognise as “unhealthy” without being able to detect therein definite insanitary conditions, which latter however can presumably be regarded only as predisposing causes. It is interesting, in this connection, to note that the fatal case, an exceedingly severe one in which death ensued on the third day, had been exposed to the emanations from a sewer, into the orifice of which the patient had crawled, three days before the onset. The age incidence was somewhat high, averaging 12 years.

**ENTERIC FEVER.**—Twenty notifications have been received in Teignmouth from seventeen cases, a somewhat higher number than usual. It has been impossible to definitely determine the causation; but my investigations have thrown some light upon the origin of nearly all the cases; thus the first notification, in February, came from one of the “unhealthy houses” alluded to in the preceding paragraph, in which a death from Enteric Fever had taken place 11 weeks previously; direct infection was probable in 3 instances (three cases occurring in one family); markedly insanitary surroundings were evident in 7; one of these was removed to the Isolation Hospital on July 23rd and remained there some three months; the Hospital drain discharges into the River Teign below low water mark, and the channel in this neighbourhood is a favourite spot for the collection of mussels and cockles. Under the conditions then existing at the Hospital it is impossible to be certain that the excreta were efficiently disinfected, and thus the molluscs in the tideway may possibly have become infected with the typhoid bacillus. Within the next two months 8 cases were notified from various parts of the town, and of these 4 had partaken of the shell fish in question within 14 days of attack, while 3 of the remainder were directly connected with the fishing industry. Without desiring to urge the above facts as explaining the greater prevalence of enteric fever during August and September they cannot be passed unnoticed in an attempt to determine its origin. The possibility of such a source of infection must be admitted; in some of these cases all the essential conditions seem to have been satisfied. Neither milk nor water appear to have been concerned in spreading the disease; for its incidence was not such as to suggest the presence of either of these factors, and no less than 5 out of the seventeen cases occurred in localities situated on the High Level Water Supply, a district from which enteric fever is usually absent.

**DIARRHŒA.**—Remarkably few cases came to my knowledge, even in the summer months; this is the more noticeable in conjunction with the excess of enteric fever alluded to and discussed in the preceding paragraph.

**EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.**—This disease which had reappeared at the beginning of December 1893 and was, at the end of that year, still spreading, rapidly extended, for the fourth time, throughout Teignmouth, reached its height in the latter part of February and by the end of the first quarter had almost disappeared. Sporadic cases have however occurred at somewhat frequent intervals throughout the year. As on former occasions Shaldon was but slightly affected by the epidemic.

The remaining principal Zymotic diseases call for no special notice: there having been no prevalence. It is however worthy



of record that no less than ten cases of whooping cough appear to have originated in one small private school of 14 children.

CHOLERA.—Although, with the advance of summer, the fears of a possible reimportation from the Continent, or of a recrudescence in this country were gradually minimised, still the adjoining Port, constituting a possible entry for cholera, rendered it advisable that special attention should again be paid to scavenging and abatement of nuisances. Such work was systematically carried out under the direction of your Surveyor and Inspector. In no instance however was it necessary to take action under any of the Cholera orders of the Local Government Board.

THE NOTIFICATION ACT continues to work satisfactorily and is of the greatest service in facilitating the control of infectious cases. Early in the year a case of Scarlatina came to my knowledge which had not been notified: the circumstances were such that I felt it my duty to report the case to the Sanitary Authority, and the Local Government Board to whom I communicated the facts stated that it was necessary that it should be so reported. The matter was thereupon satisfactorily explained. Dual notification remains a dead letter; in only three instances has the necessary information been received from the householder. Notices of the provisions of Secs. 7 and 13 of the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act have been forwarded to the occupier of each house concerning which a notification form has been received; with such notices there are also forwarded printed sheets of instructions for isolation and disinfection; disinfectants are gratuitously supplied when necessary; and in the case of Scarlatina and Diphtheria children from the affected house are prohibited from attending school. Disinfection after recovery is systematically carried out, generally under the immediate supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The Urban district remains as before without any Isolation Hospital of its own; but it has been decided by the Board that Urban patients are, if necessary, to be admitted to the Port Sanitary Hospital when the latter is not in use on behalf of the Port. It has been thus made use of in three instances during the past year, and has done excellent service; but as I have previously insisted this arrangement possesses all the conditions necessary for a deadlock. The Port hospital affords accommodation for only one disease at a time, and very inadequate provision for the due separation of the sexes: should the building be occupied by a patient from the Urban district when it is required for one arriving in the Port and suffering from a different disease, the dual Sanitary Authority will be placed in a very difficult position, for it will be impossible to admit the Port patient without first discharging the Urban case; and the likelihood that the obstacles to such a forced dismissal will prove insurmountable must be evident to all.

The provision of an efficient Isolation Hospital with accommodation for at least two infectious diseases and for due separation of the sexes; and of sufficient size to receive simultaneously cases from Port and Urban districts alike, is an important matter which merits the very careful and persevering consideration of the District Council. The difficulties attaching to the acquirement of a site would disappear if either a hulk were purchased and appropriately fitted up, or a suitable building were constructed on piles on the large sand bank in the River known as "Salty."

While the structural objections to the existing building remain as strong as ever, the Board has, during the past year, used every endeavour to render its isolation accommodation as efficient as is possible under the circumstances. The control of the establishment has for the first time been definitely entrusted to the Medical Officer of Health; rules for its administration have been drawn up by him and approved by the Sanitary Committee; necessary alterations and repairs have been executed at the Hospital, which has also been suitably furnished; and finally, a thoroughly competent Nurse has been permanently engaged to reside on the premises. These points all constitute important improvements in our, hitherto very imperfect, machinery for preventing the spread of disease; moreover they indicate the existence among the members of the Sanitary Authority of a growing appreciation of the truth that, in the case of a town with the advantages and claims which Teignmouth possesses, such machinery must be always in the finest attainable working condition. Our present machine is of a very obsolete pattern; it now works, nevertheless, as well as it can; but we must set about providing ourselves with a more efficient machine without delay.

A disinfecting apparatus must again be referred to as being much needed. Our present "rough and ready" method of disinfecting bedding, clothing, etc. by the fumes of burning sulphur is never very reliable and often the reverse of satisfactory in its results; and the Council may at any time be compelled to incur heavy expenses as compensation for goods which, owing to the absence of any efficient disinfectors, have of necessity to be destroyed by fire.

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### Water Supply.

Very marked improvements have been effected during the past year in the water supply of the district; on the Low Level the supply has been never less than 14 hours daily, and for the greater part of the year has been continuous; the hours of supply to the High Level have been extended, and thanks to better organisation and arrangement the difficulties which have for so long interfered with a reliable service to certain houses have been removed, and complaints of scarcity have been entirely absent: in Shaldon a regular supply of 14 hours daily has been steadily maintained, and could be increased to a constant supply with slightly augmented engine power; the yield of water being amply sufficient.

For this eminently satisfactory state of affairs, unparalleled in our previous history, the district is indebted solely to the Surveyor, Mr. C. Jones: directly this gentleman took up his appointment he gave the water question his most careful consideration, and by a wise use of the resources already possessed by the Board, succeeded in a few months in largely augmenting the amount of water distributed, while the expenditure was actually diminished, so that by the end of March he was enabled to report a steady extension of the hours of supply without increased pumping, while the storage was still maintained in amount.



The means adopted to ensure this satisfactory result have been mainly two, viz: prevention of waste and utilisation of the Coombe Brook.

**PREVENTION OF WASTE**—The Deacon's Waste Water Meters which were fixed on the mains in 1887 had never been properly made use of, and as a result of neglect had fallen into bad repair: these have now been put into good working order; a special inspector is appointed who attends to the meters, taking daily diagrams, and conducting the regular and frequently repeated night inspections; on the morning following each inspection notices are served on the occupiers of all premises on which a leak has been discovered, and such premises are kept under observation until the waste is stopped. A few facts from the Surveyor's report book will illustrate the enormous benefits resulting from this well organised and energetically executed scheme. The first diagram taken by the Meter at the London Hotel corner recorded a leakage of 4800 gallons per hour, equivalent to 38·4 gallons daily per head of population in this particular district; 89 leaks were discovered in 95 houses, and notices were served in each case: the last diagram taken from this same meter in December shewed a loss of 1600 gallons only; the difference between the two readings represents a saving of 25·6 gallons per head per diem. On the whole Low Level system the saving has amounted to 8 gallons per head or 40,000 gallons per diem. Frequent house to house inspections have been carried out on the High Level system and at Shaldon: no less than 93 night inspections have been made, and 991 leaks found and repaired. By these means domestic leakage has been reduced to a minimum and a number of faulty service pipes have been detected and made good, with the result of saving an enormous quantity of water.

**THE COOMBE BROOK.**—This stream which has constituted an auxiliary supply for many years has always been open to grave suspicion as to purity, and has on at least one occasion been the direct cause of a serious outbreak of disease. Early in the year the useless filter bed in Paddon's Orchard was removed and replaced by one of sand and polarite: a leaping weir and dam were constructed in the brook and the filter provided with a self regulating intake. By these means the purity of the water has been raised to a satisfactory standard as tested by frequent chemical analyses, and a very large amount has been added to our resources, the intake being only closed in times of heavy floods. By the early part of April the whole of the Low Level system was being supplied from the brook for 14 hours daily; the amount of pumping at the Water Works being thus reduced to the minimum required to serve the High Level, and a large saving in expenditure effected. The intake and filter have been under constant supervision by daily visits; the bed was somewhat damaged by the November flood and was then cleansed and made good: it is now about to undergo reconstruction with polarite and fine white "greensand" in lieu of the rough sea sand hitherto used.

Some figures kindly furnished by your Surveyor put in a very practical form the saving effected by the above reforms which he has so satisfactorily inaugurated and successfully carried out:—The quantity of Water pumped to the Low Level was, in 1893, 23,700,000 gallons; in 1894, 3,400,000 gallons; difference, 20,300,000 gallons. To the High Level the quantities were: in 1893, 12,800,000



gallons ; in 1894, 8,800,000 gallons ; difference, 4,000,000 gallons : or a total diminution of 24,300,000 gallons pumped in 1894 : the cost of raising which, at  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per 1000, would have been about £150 : this saving has been effected at an approximate cost of £50 for polarite and £44 for night inspections, shewing on the balance a gain of £56. Moreover wages at the pumping station have been some £35 less than in 1893. Thus about £100 has been saved, while the water supply has been superior both in quantity and quality to what it ever was before, and this in every sense highly profitable transaction has resulted simply from an appropriate and well judged utilisation of the material which we have possessed for years.

The reservoir in Landscore Road has received constant and careful attention, the weeds have been removed as often as they formed, and the surface of the filter bed, which forms the floor of the reservoir, was thoroughly cleansed in September, the top-most three inches of sand being removed. I must once more urge upon the Sanitary Authority the importance of a matter to which I have for several years past drawn their attention, viz : the removal of the filter bed from the floor of this reservoir. The Coombe water is efficiently filtered at the intake, the well water requires no filtration ; consequently the mixed waters as they enter the reservoir are beautifully pure, but they are there polluted by passing through the badly constructed and utterly inadequate filter bed before distribution, as has been frequently demonstrated by analysis. The filter bed must be completely done away with, the floor and sides of the reservoir made good with cement, and a floating valve outlet provided so that the issuing water is always drawn from just below the surface thus obviating the passage of any deposit into the mains. The whole area should also be roofed in.

The further consideration of the various schemes for providing a constant supply of water by gravitation has been left to the newly elected District Council, the late Local Board not feeling justified in proceeding with a matter involving such a heavy expenditure. It is a question which merits most earnest and persevering attention at the hands of the Council. Although our present supply is in a more satisfactory condition than it has hitherto been, it is far from being an ideal one, and if the pledge which 15 years ago was given to the Ratepayers by the Sanitary Authority is to be redeemed, the whole question must be seriously approached and dealt with in a broad-minded and liberal spirit.

I have on several occasions analysed the water from the Coombe Brook, which, since the construction of the Polarite filter bed, has always been found beautifully pure. I have also examined a few samples of well waters, but no direct action has been taken in the matter of the Shaldon Wells which still exist in the district owing to the Bench of Magistrates having recommended "that in all further cases an analysis by a well known analyst should be obtained by the Local Board."

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### Drainage.

The schemes for sewerage Paradise Road and the upper part of Ferndale, Coombe Vale, Cross Park, and a small district on the Old Quay, together with Ringmore in the Shaldon Ward, have been approved by the Local Government Board, but their commencement has been delayed owing to difficulties arising in

connection with the carrying of the new Coombe sewer through the existing culvert which has long conveyed the sewage from that end of the town beneath the permanent way of the G.W.R. Co. In order to avoid an indefinite postponement of the whole of these important works the Authority has determined to proceed with the remainder, leaving the Coombe Vale section to be dealt with after the settlement of the above question. Tenders for the Paradise and Ferndale sewer have been advertised for, and the work will be put in hand immediately: when completed it will receive in the New Road several house drains which now discharge into cesspools, and will, in its course, intercept the few remaining drains which still empty themselves into the Tame Brook.

The routine duties of flushing have been satisfactorily carried out under the direction of your Surveyor. A number of sewers with slight gradients, situate in the low lying parts of the Town, *e. g.* Spring Gardens, and Brunswick Street, have been thoroughly cleaned out.

The recommendation of your Surveyor to take up and relay in concrete the Osmond's Lane sewer, and to alter and improve its outfall has been accepted by the Board; but has not yet been carried out.

The long standing nuisance caused by the escape of sewer gas from the surface ventilator at the top of the Dawlish Road has been entirely abated by placing one of Arnold's Deoderisers in a chamber (which had to be specially constructed) beneath the grating. This useful apparatus, after two months trial, was purchased in June, since which time no single complaint as to nuisance caused by the sewer has been received.

A ventilating shaft which emitted noisome odours has been removed from Woodway Lane. The form of shaft in general use in this district (a 6 inch square pipe with frequent angles in its course) should be condemned: it is faulty in conception and in construction alike, and does not, because it cannot, perform its duty. Would not the problem of sewer ventilation, be considerably simplified by a more general adoption of deodorisers, wisely distributed, beneath surface gratings?

The tank and outfall at Gale's Hill have been the cause of occasional complaints, and undoubtedly a very offensive smell of sewage does at times, pervade that neighbourhood: A report by the Surveyor on the whole question is promised on the completion of the Quay Company's operations which may probably considerably modify the river currents near the outfall. The dredger has been employed to remove a bank which threatened to form at the sewer mouth.

The 'Shaldon Dyke' has been thoroughly cleansed. This ancient sewer, nearly 1200 feet in length, consists at its commencement in Albion Street and at its outfall on the Embankment of an open ditch, between these two points it is made up of old drain, barrel culvert, and stone-ware pipes. No drain so constructed can possibly be kept clean, and a re-construction of the whole at comparatively slight cost as recommended by your Surveyor is strongly advised.

Passing reference may here be made to the floods of November last. Prior to 1890, in which year the Tame Brook was thoroughly cleared out and relieved of many years accumulation of silt, the low lying portions of the town were always liable, in times of heavy rain, to inundation, owing to the obstructed brook channel being insufficient to carry off the freshets which



descended the Brimley Valley. No flood has occurred from that date until Monday, 12th November last, when, after three weeks almost continuous rain culminating in a fall of 2·58 inches in 24 hours, the culverted portion of the Brimley stream between Ferndale and Paradise Road became blocked, and the water rushed in a torrent down Ferndale, Buckridge and Lower Brimley, flooded the Station Yard and permanent way, and then found its way into Station Road, Lower Brook Street and Wellington Street: the cover of the Brook in the Station Yard also burst, and thus added to the volume of escaping water. The matter was promptly and energetically dealt with by your Surveyor and the flood soon subsided. On Wednesday, November 14th, the early morning tide was an unusually high one and a strong westerly wind forced the water from the river over Gale's Hill and inundated portions of Somerset Place, Brunswick Street, Wellington Street and Bank Street; the water disappeared with the receding tide, but the cellars of some of the houses were not freed for many days. On the same morning the Brimley Brook culvert at the back of St. Joseph's burst, and Lower Brimley, the Station and Station Road were again flooded.

The important point in connection with the above floods is that the Tame Brook, in its covered course through the Town, was not in any way concerned in their causation, and that the inhabitants have reaped an enormous benefit from the removal of silt which was, five years ago, carried out by the Board. The time has however come when it should again be thoroughly cleared and this work will be executed at an early date. With the completion of the new sewer in the upper part of the valley the last of the house drains will be removed from the brook which will then fulfil its proper function as a channel for storm and surface water only.

The floods do not appear to have had any direct detrimental effect on the health of the inhabitants.

Your Sanitary Inspector has continued to devote his unremitting attention to improvements in house drainage. Four, exclusive of those of new buildings, have been connected with the main sewers; 32 have been efficiently disconnected by Syphon traps; 56 choked, faulty and defective drains have been made good; and 38 have been efficiently ventilated.

The drains of 50 houses have been subjected to the smoke test by means of the "Asphyxiator" and escapes of sewer gas detected in 44 of these. The total number thus investigated since this invaluable apparatus was purchased in 1889 is 404, and the defects detected, to the number of 376, have all been remedied, certificates being subsequently granted to the owners. There are thus at least 400 houses in the district of whose satisfactory sanitary condition we are assured: a knowledge in which we may justly take pride. Those householders who have not seen fit to avail themselves of the Board's liberal offer of gratuitous testing and examination of drains may find food for reflection in the statement that the chances are about 15 to 1 that sewer gas is escaping into their dwellings. A return prepared in 1893 shewed that of 151 houses which let apartments only 35 possessed the Sanitary Certificate.

Your attention has been called by your Surveyor to the importance of enforcing the bye-law which necessitates all house drains being laid on a bed of concrete. A suggestion which I here desire most strongly to endorse.



## Miscellaneous.

*Sanitary Inspector's Record of Work during 1894.*

	Teignmouth.	Shaldon.	Total.
Houses Inspected .. ...	128	65	193
Complaints received ... ..	90	16	106
Preliminary Notices served ... ..	3	1	4
Legal ditto ... ..	21	11	32
Houses Cleaned and Whitewashed ... ..	2	0	2
Houses Disinfected ... ..	5	1	6
House Drains, Ventilated ... ..	34	4	38
House Drains, New Connections to main Sewers	4	0	4
House Drains, Dis-connected by Syphon Traps	28	4	32
House Drains, Choked, Remedied .. ...	18	2	20
House Drains, New, Provided in lieu of old, faulty	14	1	15
House Drains, Defective, made Good ..	18	3	21
House Drains, Tested with the Asphyxiator ...	46	4	50
Tested and found Faulty ... ..	40	4	44
W.C.'s. supplied with New Flushing Apparatus	65	23	88
W.C.'s., New, provided ... ..	5	0	5
W.C.'s., New, in lieu of old Pan and Container	36	3	39
Soil Pipes, made Good .. ...	9	3	12
New Gully Traps fixed in lieu of old Bell Traps and Defective D Traps ... ..	51	4	55
Cisterns, Provided .. ..	3	0	3
Cisterns, Cleansed .. ..	17	1	18
Ashpits Repaired ... ..	2	0	2
Ashpits, New, Provided ... ..	5	0	5
Overflow Pipes, Dis-connected from Drains ..	7	2	9
Rain water pipes, ditto ... ..	7	0	7
Removal of offensive accumulations ... ..	14	2	16
Overcrowding ... ..	3	1	4
Seizures of unsound Fish ... ..	2	0	2
Disinfectants served out .. ...	26	3	29
Defective Paving of Yards, Remedied ...	17	7	24
Indoor W.C.'s Supplied from Town Supply ...	2	0	2
Other Nuisances ... ..	12	6	18
Letters and Reports Written in connection with the Office ... ..	215	0	215

In accordance with the regulations of the Local Government Board I have made regular systematic inspections of the district, the results of which have been from time to time reported to the Sanitary Committee, by whom such action has in most cases been taken as was needful for the remedying of defects thus discovered. The locality to which special attention has been devoted is French Street, together with Terra Nova Place, all the houses in which have been placed in satisfactory sanitary condition as the result

of a personally conducted house to house inspection; the improvements carried out comprising reconstruction and adequate flushing of w.c.'s, paving of damp yards with cement, trapping of drains, etc. In all I have personally inspected 76 houses.

In the pursuance of his routine duties your Sanitary Inspector has accomplished a vast amount of invaluable reform, as the tabular statement shews.

Among the most interesting facts indicated in the above table are the following:—In the first place, whereas the number of houses inspected is considerably larger than in any previous year the actual defects discovered and remedied shew a slight diminution from which it may be inferred that the effects of the persevering activity and zeal with which your Inspector has for the past 8 years consistently performed his duties are already becoming apparent, for the proportion of sanitary defects to each house inspected is steadily diminishing. Secondly, the great progress represented by the table has been secured by the issue of but 4 preliminary and 32 legal notices, a fact which speaks volumes for the Inspector's influence and tact. It is my pleasant duty to once more record my conviction that in Mr. Drake the Authority possesses a most able official, and the district is to be congratulated on having, at the cost of a small rise of salary, succeeded in retaining his valuable services, with the loss of which we seemed recently to be threatened. The other tabulated items to which I would draw special attention are the improvements in house drainage already referred to; the number of w.c's supplied with flushing apparatus and improved fittings; and the relatively large amount of improvement effected in Shaldon.

The regular house to house inspection which was inaugurated in 1888 has made no progress, and my suggestion (Annual Reports for 1892 and 1893) that an Assistant Inspector should be temporarily engaged to complete the work has not been favourably entertained by the Board, which has however, in reply to a query advanced by the Local Government Board, expressed its willingness to engage such an assistant "if required." The 193 houses included in the Inspector's tabulated return in addition to those personally inspected by myself have been exhaustively dealt with: included in this total are Albion and Dagmar Streets, Shaldon, and Forester's Lane. It has been decided that in future the whole district shall be systematically inspected on the following lines:—A particular street or block of buildings having been selected and thoroughly examined, the necessary works will be pointed out to the owners of insanitary property, and the houses in question inspected and reinspected until every defect is remedied as far as is possible. By this means it is hoped that in the course of a very few years every house in the district will be inspected, its condition recorded, and its deficiencies made good.

The Scavenging arrangements have been completely reorganised by your Surveyor. Whereas in former years the contents of ash pits were collected in such an irregular manner that refuse accumulated for so long a period as six weeks upon certain premises, such neglect is now practically impossible. The whole Town is divided into 6 districts, and the refuse from each district is regularly collected upon certain days, once, twice or thrice a week according to circumstances; the work is



commenced early and actively carried out with the result that sundry receptacles filled with house refuse no longer disfigure the streets until the afternoon, and the nuisances arising from the accumulation of such refuse upon enclosed premises have been permanently abated. Considerable progress has also been made in the provision of properly constructed ashbins, a circular having been issued advising householders in this matter.

The town refuse has, immediately after collection, been carted to Salcombe and there deposited in a field, a mile and a half from the town, thus obviating the difficulty which has existed for so long, owing to its having been deposited, prior to final removal, in the Local Board's yard.

Plans of 46 new buildings have been approved, the majority being connected with the development of the estates fronting the Upper and Lower Brimley Roads. The said roads will be widened, though not to the minimum of 36ft. required by the Byelaws: in several instances there has appeared to be, especially during the latter half of the year, a regrettable tendency on the part of the Board to fail in enforcing certain important Byelaws, and recommendations made by the Sanitary and Plans Committee have been ignored or over-ridden. The following is a case in point:—Some years ago a workshop with practically no back space was erected on a piece of vacant land; in September last plans were presented for sundry additions to this workshop with the object of converting it into a dwelling-house. These plans on the recommendation of the Sanitary Committee were not approved. In October, the Surveyor having reported that the builder was nevertheless proceeding with the work, he was required (under Byelaw 99) to attend personally before the Sanitary Authority and shew cause why the work should not be removed, altered, or pulled down. In due course he attended the November meeting of the Board, when the only cause shewn was an appeal *ad misericordiam*, notwithstanding which it was resolved, though not without opposition, "that no action be taken in the matter." It may be mentioned also that, in connection with the original workshop, a well was sunk without the knowledge of the Board.

Now I wish to represent in the strongest possible terms that the Byelaws are the only instrument possessed by the Sanitary Authority for securing satisfactory hygienic conditions to the dwellers in new houses. Moreover a healthy district in the future can only be ensured by allowing none but healthy houses to be erected at the present time. The members of the Authority are the trustees not only of the existing generation of ratepayers but also of posterity; and the sacrifice of public interests to the needs of the individual builder, as in the above flagrant case, (be the builder never so deserving) constitutes, I believe, a grave breach of the trust committed to them. Moreover, as has been frequently pointed out, the Authority has no discretionary power; it is bound to enforce the Byelaws, though their rigid application must, it is admitted, sometimes interfere seriously with the sanitary improvement of ancient property situate in crowded parts of the town.

An attempt has been made to secure bye-laws under Section 23 (2) of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, for extending the provisions of the existing Bye-laws as to drains, etc., of New Buildings to the case of Old Buildings erected before the time mentioned in Section 157 of the Public Health Act 1875. No model of such Bye-laws is obtainable from the Local Government Board, and the matter has lapsed for the present. The proposed new powers are however so great and so important that the possibility of obtaining them must not be lost sight of.

The Private Streets Works Act, 1892, has been applied to Salisbury Terrace, Gladstone Terrace, and Shute Hill Terrace, and is now in course of application to Gloucester Road and Teign View Place.

The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, Section 14, has been systematically carried out in all cases.

Arrangements have at last been made for carrying out the provisions of the Byelaws under the Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds Order, 1885, which have so long remained in abeyance, and your Inspector has completed the first of what should be a series of regular systematic examinations of premises concerned in the production and sale of milk, that all-important food which is so liable to contamination and to become thus a vehicle for the communication of disease : at the time of writing, however, his report has not been received.

No use has been made of the valuable powers afforded by the Sale of Food and Drugs Act for securing the purity of food supplies. One sample of milk which I privately examined contained 18 per cent of added water.

The Order of the Secretary of State under the Factories and Workshops Acts 1878--1891 is of very limited application in this district. It is not however ignored, and the lists of outworkers are examined from time to time.

Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, Section 30, two dwellings, situate in Bitton Street and Northumberland Place respectively have been closed. The former, having been put into complete sanitary repair, is once more occupied ; the latter remains in a condition of rapidly increasing dilapidation. The alterations to the eight houses in Globe Lane which were closed in 1892 are not yet completed. A house in Fore Street which was so ruinous as to constitute a danger to passers has been repaired as a result of the action of your Surveyor.

In May an owner of property was summoned for failing to comply with a notice served on him to provide a sufficient W.C. the prosecution failed however on a technical point.

I have regularly attended the meetings of the Local Board and of the Sanitary Committee (no meetings of the latter were held in the months of February, April and August) and have presented reports on many of the points referred to above. I have also presented a special report on the Isolation Hospital, and have drawn up rules etc. for the management of that institution.



I desire here to say a few words with respect to the treatment by the County Council of the annual reports of Medical Officers of Health. In the first place, so far as my own experience goes, they are not acknowledged when received ; and secondly, the collated reports issued by the County Council are so inaccurate in certain important respects as to inflict what may possibly be a grievous injustice upon certain of the districts to which they refer ; thus, in the "Sanitary Tables I" issued in 1892, the zymotic death rate of Teignmouth for 1891 is multiplied tenfold by a removal of the decimal point one place to the right, and is returned as 2·4 instead of 0·24, a printer's error no doubt, but one the appearance of which in the published sheet is, to say the least, not indicative of careful proof reading. On detecting the mistake I at once wrote to the Clerk calling his attention thereto and requesting that it might be corrected, but no notice was taken of my letter and I have no means of ascertaining whether the correction has ever been made. Again on page 5, of the "1893 Summary of Reports of Medical Officers of Health for South Devon" under the column headed "Infectious Diseases *Amendment* Act 1890" is the item "Teignmouth. Yes, a dead letter," an absolute misstatement, since on page 22 of my Annual Report for 1893, from which the item alluded to purports to be derived, it is specifically stated that "the Infectious Diseases *Prevention* Act section 14 has been systematically carried out in all cases." "Amendment" is presumably intended for "Prevention," but for the misstatement of fact there can be no excuse. If the County Council permits the facts reported by Medical Officers of Health to be thus distorted, and ignores their protests against such misrepresentation it cannot expect to be willingly furnished with the detailed information for which from time to time it applies. Finally, the presence of such errors in the Council's summarised tables deprives them of much of their value for purposes of reference.

A renewed application was made in July to register the house known as the White Horse Inn, Teign Street as a common lodging house, and was refused. I subsequently, on two occasions, inspected the premises, and recommended extensive improvements in drainage, water supply, and ventilation ; the necessary works having been carried out by the owner and the building brought into conformity with the Byelaws, a third exhaustive inspection was made, and the license was granted in December.

The question of Mortuary accommodation has advanced in so far that your Surveyor, after consultation with myself, in July last laid before the Sanitary Committee specifications, plans and estimate for a suitable building, with post mortem room attached, to be erected on the Quay at a cost of £70. The Committee recommended the Board to carry out this suggestion, and to sell the existing building and site in Lower Brook Street, but the Board decided that the matter should stand over to be dealt with by the District Council, whose early attention it seriously claims, inasmuch as our present Mortuary has several times been strongly condemned by Coroner and juries, and is most unsuited for the purpose to which it is applied.

The Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses have been visited and inspected at regular intervals by your Sanitary Inspector, and such cleansing, whitewashing, etc. as has been necessary has been enforced. The condition of these premises is generally satisfactory. It was reported in June that there were no licensed slaughterhouses in the Shaldon Ward, where five unregistered buildings were used as such: the Board, decided on the advice of their Clerk, to register these premises and then to take steps to regulate them in accordance with the Byelaws.

A report from Dr. H. T. Bulstrode, Medical Inspector to the Local Government Board, embodying the results of his inspection of this district in August 1893 and containing various comments and suggestions, was received in February. After repeated consideration the replies of the Sanitary Authority to his remarks were forwarded to the Local Government Board in November.

In conclusion I will briefly re-enumerate the matters in which distinct progress has been achieved during the past year. Such are:—

Isolation Hospital, administration perfected and experienced Nurse permanently engaged.

Efficient filtration applied to Coombe Brook, whereby this source is rendered available for supply.

Waste of water effectually controlled: and, as a result of these last two, more regular and more continuous supply to both upper and lower levels at greatly diminished expense.

Removal of sewer gas nuisance at top of Dawlish Road by fixing one of Arnold's deodorisers beneath the surface ventilator.

Scavenging completely and methodically re-organised.

Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds Order put into operation.

Numerous and important improvements in house sanitation.

To this list I append another, in which are mentioned those matters which claim the early and careful consideration of the District Council. These are:—

Provision of Isolation Hospital accommodation adequate to the needs of both Port and Urban districts.

Provision of a suitable disinfecting apparatus.

Provision of a constant water supply by gravitation.

Repair of the Landscore reservoir and removal of the filter bed from its floor.



Systematic attention to the shallow wells at Shaldon under Sections 62 and 70 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Enforcement of Building Byelaws.

Provision of Byelaws under Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890, Section 23 (2).

Mortuary accommodation.

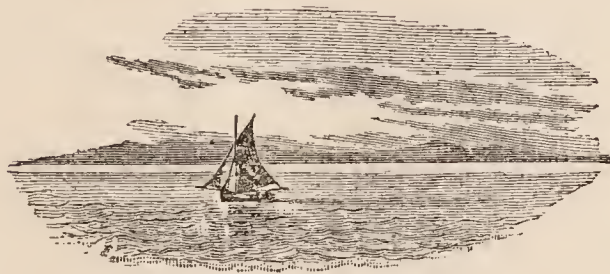
Sewerage of Paradise, Coombe, Old Quay and Ringmore (a part of this is now in progress, and the loan for the whole has been authorised.)

All the above are matters which have a marked influence on the health, prosperity and reputation of the district ; and I trust they will receive from the Council that earnest attention which their importance demands.

F. CECIL H. PIGGOTT, M.D., B.C., AND B.A., CANTAB :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

January 1895.



# To the Teignmouth Port Sanitary Authority.

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THE possibility of the introduction of Cholera from Continental ports by home-coming vessels has been continually kept in view. The list of cholera infected ports has been regularly revised and corrected, as a result of information received from time to time from Dr. Collingridge, Medical Officer of Health to the Port of London; and arrangements were made with the Officers of Her Majesty's Customs by which they undertook to delay, until my arrival on board, the granting of pratique to any vessels arriving from ports on the aforesaid list. Fortunately these precautions have not had to be practically enforced, for no vessel from such ports has entered the district during the past twelve months.

The Isolation accommodation provided by the Port Sanitary Authority although practically sufficient for the probable requirements of the Port alone, is much lessened in value owing to its being also available for the Urban district: but this matter has been sufficiently considered under the latter head on page 13, to which reference may here be made. The remarks on page 14 with respect to the need for a disinfecting apparatus are also equally applicable to the Port district.

No cases of illness have been detected or reported on any vessel within the limits of the district.

With respect to routine: work regular inspection of the ships in harbour has been carried out by your Sanitary Inspector as well as by myself in person. The total number boarded was 154, including 12 from foreign ports. In 9 cases it has been necessary to order cleansing and whitewashing, and in every such case subsequent visits have been paid to ensure the due carrying out of the instructions given. A large majority of the vessels examined were found in very fair sanitary condition, with good water storage and forecastles tolerably clean.

The total number of vessels entering the Port during 1894 was 456, an increase of 28 as compared with the previous year. Of these 406 sailing vessels and 22 steamers came "coast-wise," the remaining 22 sailing vessels and 6 steamers arriving from foreign ports, principally Scandinavian and Danish.

F. CECIL H. PIGGOTT, M.D., B.C., AND B.A., CANTAB:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

January 1895.





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